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168 Nassau Street

Princeton, N. J.

Town Topics

WE NOMINATE

Joseph Brown, one of this community's most compelling personalities, whose achievements as sculptor, teacher, coach and boxer prompted one sports columnist to describe him as the "Princeton equivalent of the fabulous Leonardo da Vinci." A member of two University Departments—Assistant Professor in Art and Archaeology and Instructor in Physical Education and Athletics—Brown at age 39 is cramming a number of careers into one and this summer is "finishing up" several pieces of sculpture, "puttering with magazine articles" and making longheaded plans for his eminently worthwhile classes in the creative arts.

A native of a rugged section of Philadelphia, where in his 'teens he became a master of the art of flicking jabs and throwing hooks, Brown first caught the public eye as a Temple University undergraduate. After starring on the gridiron and captaining the boxing team in his sophomore year, he took a whirl at the professional ring and won nine straight bouts as a topnotch light heavyweight before deciding that the slug-for-pay racket wasn't for him. He continued at Temple, graduating in 1931.

An opportunity to "pick up a few bucks modelling" struck the spark which lead to Brown's development as a force in American art. He was posing for sculptor Walker Hancock when, "for the fun of it," he picked up a ball of clay and produced a small torso. Hancock was so impressed that he and illustrator Douglas Duer gave Brown tools, studio-space and clay and told him to go ahead on his own. Brown did exactly that. He turned out three figures of boxers, borrowed a book on casting and—without benefit of a lesson—had all three pieces accepted for exhibit by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

His work struck the fancy of the late great R. Tait McKenzie, who offered to take the novice under his wing. For eight long years Brown served the toughest kind of "apprenticeship," perfecting the techniques that have since won national awards and evolving a philosophy of art that amounts to "never being ashamed of doing what people like." Unlike too many of his contemporaries, Brown never divorced art from everyday experience and athletics remained an integral part of his life. In 1938, he became Princeton's boxing instructor and the following year was named Resident Fellow in Sculpture.

For believing and proving that art belongs to the man in the street as well as to the artistic and the so-called intellectual; for demonstrating, even to the most discerning collegian, that athletics and other extra-curricular activities are means and not ends in themselves; for insisting that no phase of education, including the physical, should ever be painful; he is TOWN TOPICS' nominee for

PRINCETON'S

MAN OF THE WEEK

August 15-21, 1948

PATRON

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Town Topics

Published Every Thursday throughout the Year

DONALD C. STUART, JR.
DAN D. COYLE
Editors and Publishers

Mailed without charge every week to every home in Princeton Borough and Township. Advertising Rates on Application.

Box 371 Princeton, N. J. Telephone 2326

Vol. III, No. 23 August 15-21, 1948

Topics of the Town

Well Done. The 20th century knows few men who have worked in one job for 50 years. Princeton knows even less, but Van Buren Leigh, assistant cashier at the First National Bank, is one of them. Tuesday night at the Princeton Inn, 70 of his associates and their wives attended a dinner marking his half-century achievement.

Mr. Leigh, who began as a clerk when Alfred S. Leigh, a distant relative, was president, has been known to thousands of the bank's depositors over a period of five decades. As a token of appreciation, his friends presented him Tuesday with a \$500 bond and a watch bearing the inscription: "Presented to Van Buren Leigh by The First National of Princeton in recognition of 50 years of faithful and efficient service, 1898-1948."

Action Ahead. The anticipated August lull in municipal affairs has occurred but is merely serving to heighten action that will break immediately after Labor Day. The Township board of education tabled discussion of a new date for the school bond referendum; the Township committee postponed further consideration on the proposed shopping center near Snowden Lane; and the Borough council introduced two lengthy ordinances governing distribution of circulars and the licensing of hucksters. The pro-Wallace contingent here is ready to debate the freedom-of-speech aspects of the former measure

(Continued on page three)

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EDWARD A. THORNE THE DRUGGIST

168 Nassau Street

TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page two)

at the September 14 public hearing.

If the town is quiet this month, not so the State Legislature. Convening next Monday for a special session, it is in for a stormy pre-election session in which the Democrats will shove for legalized bingo and both parties may seek voter approbation by introducing their versions of veterans' bonus legislation. To be enacted, both issues would require passage by the people on November 2.

The debate on bingo is particularly intriguing, inasmuch as church leaders of most Protestant denominations are hotly against its legalization, while Catholic parishes throughout the State are among its leading supporters. One strong argument on the side of those favoring legal status for the game is that the ban against it has long proved unenforceable.

(Continued on page four)

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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page three)

Extra-Curricular Activities — 1895 Style. In police headquarters at Borough Hall, the bulletin board carries a letter written by Alexander M. Stewart '98 of Indiana, Pa., whose son, James M. Stewart '32 has done some acting here & there. Long before son Jim was old enough even to cut up in his play pen, his father was a freshman at the College of New Jersey. The letter tells of an encounter with the law, in which the law apparently finished second, and of a desire to make amends that was put into effect over a half century later. "One Spring day of our freshman year, 1895," the correspondent states, "a road show landed in Princeton. Dur-

(Continued on page seven)

APARTMENT urgently needed, unfurnished, for working widow with baby in day nursery now living under separate roofs in separate cities. Please call Mrs. Gilbarg, 2300, ext. 666.

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Maxwell House Coffee lb. 55c
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Egg plants 2 lbs. 13c
Seedless grapes 2 lbs. 49c
Fresh corn 6 ears 29c
Onions 3 lbs. 14c

Calendar of the Week

Sunday, August 15th

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.: Mass, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church.
 10:30 a.m.: "The Trial of Daniel," the Rev. Milton J. Nauss, Princeton Lutheran Church; Westminster Choir College.
 11:00 a.m.: "The Divine Perspective," the Rev. Dr. Charles T. Fritsch, union service, First and Second Churches.
 Sermon, the Rev. Rolland Raver, pastor of Hamilton Avenue Methodist Church, Trenton; Princeton Methodist Church.
 Sermon, the Rev. Dr. Theodore H. McCrea, Trinity Episcopal Church.
 "Soul," lesson-sermon; First Church of Christ, Scientist.
 12:00 noon: Monthly collection of scrap paper, sponsored by Charles W. Robinson Post No. 218, American Legion.
 5:30 p.m.: meeting of Westminster Fellow-

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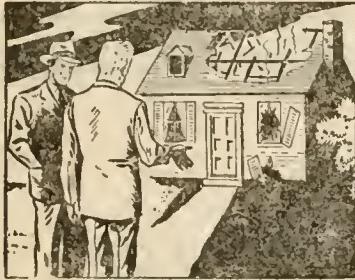
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News of the Theatres

The Playhouse

Lady from Shanghai (Fri., Sat.) is too complex a story for its own good but offers enough action and suspense in a murder-aboard-a-yacht setting to make it acceptable. Orson Welles, Rita Hayworth.

The Walls of Jericho (Sun. thru Wed.) takes place 30 years back in the Kansas town of that name, tells what happens when romance, jealousy and gossip rip into the lives of an attorney, a reporter, their wives and a third woman. Courtroom scenes predominate in a fair but frequently confused story. Cornel Wilde, Linda Darnell, Anne Baxter.

Give My Regards to Broadway (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) allows Charles Winninger to claim for 20 years that vaudeville isn't dead. His unending plans to take himself & his family behind the footlights once more permit a few enjoyable song & dance routines, little else.

The Garden

Old Los Angeles (Fri., Sat.) portrays the gold hunters, the outlaws, the heroes and heroines of bygone days in southern California. Catherine McLeod and William Elliott in a routine western.

Raw Deal (Mon., Tues., Wed.) spins a yarn about an escaped convict (Dennis O'Keefe) who goes on a new career of crime with two girls, Claire Trevor, who aids & abets, Marsha Hunt who seeks to reform him, although brought along at gunpoint. Average melodrama.

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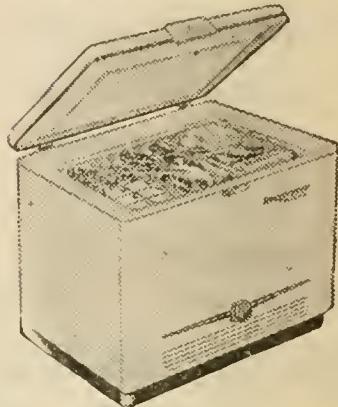
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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page four)
ing the parade, something happened. It was a long time ago, but as I recall, a few bad boys . . ."

The "bad boys" were soon involved in "a mix-up with the one and only Princeton policeman, at which time the enclosed badge became detached from said policeman and in some way the said badge has been in my possession for the past 53 years." Today, it is back at headquarters.

Mr. Stewart's letter continues: "Of course, the old policeman is long since dead. But in case he should decide to return in search of the emblem of his authority, Princeton would be much nearer than Indiana, Pa."

Why did Princeton's sole defender of the law risk life, limb & his badge in pursuit of the carefree freshmen? Mr. Stewart admits (but does not say how) that they "landed the clown from the road show, his cart and his pony on the top floor of Brown Dormitory."

Nature Study. Princetonians who have seen something large and white sail lazily before their eyes in the last week have known better than to start another "flying saucer" story but may not have known exactly what type of aerial artistry they were witnessing. We sent our ornithologist editor over hill & dale, and are in receipt of the following wire:

"Exclusive interview with one of the white-plumed tourists reveals them to be American egrets, vacationing in the North from their natural habitat, the everglades of Florida. Late in the 19th century, they nearly became extinct as

(Continued on page eight)

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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page seven)

hunters sought them for their plumes, then much in demand by New York milliners as decorations for women's hats.

"Stationing game wardens (one of whom was killed when a shooting war broke out) in the everglades, the National Audubon Society has just won a 50-year fight to permit these stately birds to rear their young without interference from man. I am informed that this is the first Summer since the nineties that these birds have been strong enough in numbers to warrant a northward migration. I am further advised that while the egrets are eternally grateful that women's hat styles have changed so that their plumes are no longer sought, some of the present models viewed after 50 years of seclusion in the swamps, have proved a distinct shock."

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